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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 50

FEBRUARY, 1974

No. 1



*SEARCHING FOR EAGLES — DUNCAN BAY,
LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES*

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

Dr. Ray Nall of the Tennessee Valley Authority has provided the winter-time scene in the Land Between the Lakes.

RECENT CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE OF KENTUCKY BIRDS

BURT L. MONROE, JR.

Since the appearance of the 5th edition of the *Check-list of North American birds*, published in 1957 by the American Ornithologists' Union and regarded as the standard taxonomic reference on American birds, there have been numerous studies resulting in new information and changes in the taxonomic treatment of our bird species. Although the preparation of the 6th edition of the *Check-list* is currently underway, several more years will elapse before the new edition hits the press. In the interim, the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, who make the final decisions, have produced a list of "noncontroversial" changes that will be adopted in the 6th edition; these changes have been published as the "Thirty-second Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds" in the April 1973 issue of *The Auk* (90: 411-419). In the paper presented here, I will list only those changes affecting Kentucky species and will discuss briefly the reasoning behind these changes. The list below is presented in *Check-list* sequence, with the appropriate pages in the 5th edition indicated. These constitute all the published changes to date that have been accepted by the Committee.

Page

- 4 *Podiceps grisegena* (Boddaert). Red-necked Grebe.
 Podiceps grisegena holbollii Reinhardt.
- 5 *Podiceps nigricollis* C. L. Brehm. Eared Grebe.
 Podiceps nigricollis californicus Heermann.
- 47 *Casmerodius albus* (Linnaeus). Great Egret.
- 48 *Egretta thula* (Molina). Snowy Egret.
 Egretta thula thula (Molina).
- 54 *Mycteria americana* Linnaeus. Wood Stork.
- 68 *Chen caerulescens* (Linnaeus). Snow Goose.
 Chen caerulescens caerulescens (Linnaeus).
- 70 *Tadorna ferruginea* (Pallas). Ruddy Sheld-Duck.
 [Hypothetical List]
- 76 *Anas crecca* Linnaeus. Green-winged Teal.
 Anas crecca carolinensis Gmelin. "American Green-winged
 Teal."
- 78 *Anas penelope* Linnaeus. European Wigeon.
- 79 *Anas americana* Gmelin. American Wigeon.
- 80 *Anas clypeata* Linnaeus. Northern Shoveler.
- 94 *Melanitta nigra* (Linnaeus). Black Scoter.
 Melanitta nigra americana (Swainson).

Page

- 101 *Elanoides forficatus* (Linnaeus). Swallow-tailed Kite.
Elanoides forficatus forficatus (Linnaeus).
- 106 *Buteo jamaicensis* (Gmelin). Red-tailed Hawk.
Buteo jamaicensis harlani (Audubon).
- 110 *Buteo lagopus* (Pontoppidan). Rough-legged Hawk.
Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis (Gmelin).
- 112 *Aquila chrysaetos* (Linnaeus). Golden Eagle.
Aquila chrysaetos canadensis (Linnaeus).
- 120 *Falco columbarius* Linnaeus. Merlin.
- 122 *Falco sparverius* Linnaeus. American Kestrel.
- 174 *Pluvialis squatarola* (Linnaeus). Black-bellied Plover.
- 185 *Bartramia longicauda* (Bechstein). Upland Sandpiper.
- 190 *Tringa melanoleuca* (Gmelin). Greater Yellowlegs.
- 191 *Tringa flavipes* (Gmelin). Lesser Yellowlegs.
- 192 *Calidris canutus* (Linnaeus). Red Knot.
- 193 *Calidris maritima* (Brünnich). Purple Sandpiper.
[Hypothetical List]
- 195 *Calidris melanotos* (Vieillot). Pectoral Sandpiper.
- 196 *Calidris fuscicollis* (Vieillot). White-rumped Sandpiper.
- 196 *Calidris bairdii* (Coues). Baird's Sandpiper.
- 197 *Calidris minutilla* (Vieillot). Least Sandpiper.
- 199 *Calidris alpina* (Linnaeus). Dunlin.
Calidris alpina pacifica (Coues).
- 202 *Calidris pusilla* (Linnaeus). Semipalmated Sandpiper.
- 203 *Calidris mauri* (Cabanis). Western Sandpiper.
- 207 *Calidris alba* (Pallas). Sanderling.
- 222 *Larus thayeri* Brooks. Thayer's Gull.
- 262 *Zenaida macroura* (Linnaeus). Mourning Dove.
Zenaida macroura carolinensis (Linnaeus).
Zenaida macroura marginella (Woodhouse).
- 264 *Columbina passerina* (Linnaeus). Ground Dove
[Hypothetical List]
- 312 *Colaptes auratus* (Linnaeus). Common Flicker.
- 343 *Empidonax traillii* (Audubon). Willow Flycatcher.
- 344 *Empidonax alnorum* Brewster. Alder Flycatcher.

Page

- 418 *Telmatodytes palustris* (Wilson). Long-billed Marsh Wren.
Telmatodytes palustris dissaepus (Bangs).
- 423 *Dumetella carolinensis* (Linnaeus). Gray Catbird.
- 431 *Turdus migratorius* Linnaeus. American Robin.
- 436 *Catharus guttatus* (Pallas). Hermit Thrush.
Catharus guttatus faxoni (Bangs and Penard).
- 438 *Catharus ustulatus* (Nuttall). Swainson's Thrush.
Catharus ustulatus swainsoni (Tschudi).
- 440 *Catharus minimus* (Lafresnaye). Gray-cheeked Thrush.
Catharus minimus minimus (Lafresnaye).
- 441 *Catharus fuscescens* (Stephens). Veery.
Catharus fuscescens fuscescens (Stephens).
Catharus fuscescens salicicola (Ridgway).
- 459 *Bombycilla garrulus* (Linnaeus). Bohemian Waxwing.
[Hypothetical List]
- 485 *Parula americana* (Linnaeus). Northern Parula.
- 491 *Dendroica coronata* (Linnaeus). Yellow-rumped Warbler.
- 510 *Geothlypis trichas* (Linnaeus). Common Yellowthroat.
- 533 *Icterus galbula* (Linnaeus). Northern Oriole.
Icterus galbula galbula (Linnaeus). "Baltimore Oriole"
- 537 *Cassidix major* (Vieillot). Boat-tailed Grackle.
[Hypothetical List]
- 546 *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Linnaeus). Cardinal.
Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis (Linnaeus).
- 592 *Ammodramus leconteii* (Audubon). Le Conte's Sparrow.
- 593 *Ammodramus henslowii* (Audubon). Henslow's Sparrow.
Ammodramus henslowii henslowii (Audubon).
- 607 *Junco hyemalis* (Linnaeus). Dark-eyed Junco.
Junco hyemalis montanus Ridgway.

In addition, one introduced species that is currently omitted from most Kentucky lists despite its former establishment in parts of the state has been changed:

- 147 *Alectoris chukar* (J. E. Gray). Chukar.

The changes in the scientific names may be grouped into two categories: those that are a result of nomenclatural decisions and those that are a result of taxonomic studies. In the former category are differences in spelling brought about by amendments to the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (removal of diacritical marks in *Podiceps grise-gena holbollii*, *Elonoides*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, and *Telmatodytes palustris dissaepus*; the spelling out of the abbreviated *Buteo lagopus s.johannis*; and the changing of gender of *Bombycilla garrula* to *Bombycilla garrulus*,

since the species name is a noun in apposition rather than an adjective) and the replacement of names through decisions of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (*Podiceps nigricollis* for *Podiceps caspicus*, *Cardinalis* for *Richmondia*).

The remainder of the current changes are the result of studies on the taxonomy of the groups involved. A number of these studies suggest the lumping of two or more genera into one in groups where oversplitting has occurred (*Leucophoyx* in *Egretta*; *Casarca* in *Tadorna*; *Mareca* and *Spatula* in *Anas*; *Oidemia* in *Melanitta*; *Squatarola* in *Pluvialis*; *Totanus* in *Tringa*; *Erolia*, *Ereunetes* and *Crocethia* in *Calidris*; *Zenaidura* in *Zenaida*; and *Columbigallina* in *Columbina*). Two other changes at the generic level are based on the uncovering of false relationships implied by the old taxonomy: the four thrushes formerly in the genus *Hylocichla* (excluding the Wood Thrush, which remains alone in *Hylocichla*) are now known to be closely related to the Nightingale-Thrushes of Middle America and are therefore included in the genus *Catharus* (Dilger, *The Auk* 73: 313, 1956), and the Le Conte's and Henslow's Sparrows, formerly comprising the genus *Passerherbulus*, are related respectively to the Sharp-tailed Sparrow and the Grasshopper Sparrow and are thus transferred respectively to the genera *Ammospiza* and *Ammodramus* (Murray, *The Auk* 85: 586-593, 1968).

The remaining changes reflect a better understanding of the relationships within various species groups. Taxonomy had long been viewed in light of distinctions we as observers of birds could discern, rather than acceptance of the recognition displayed by the birds themselves. Modern ornithologists have now generally adopted the latter viewpoint, distinguishing species from one another on the basis of "biological isolating mechanisms" rather than appearance alone; in other words, if the birds can tell the difference, then we recognize them as different, and conversely, if the two "kinds" of birds do not make these distinctions and freely interbreed in nature, then we consider them to be one species. Thus we have "lost" the Blue Goose (to the Snow Goose); Harlan's Hawk (to the Red-tailed Hawk); Yellow-shafted, Red-shafted and Gilded Flickers (by combining into a single species, the Common Flicker); Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers (by combining into the Yellow-rumped Warbler); Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles (by combining into the Northern Oriole); and the Slate-colored and Oregon Juncos (by combining into the Dark-eyed Junco). We have gained as full species the Thayer's Gull (from the Herring Gull); Alder and Willow Flycatchers (by splitting up the "Traill's"); and the Boat-tailed Grackle (as distinct from the Great-tailed Grackle). With the exception of the Blue Goose, all the "lost" species are now recognized as distinct subspecies or subspecies groups with a zone of contact between the groups where random interbreeding occurs; the Blue Goose has been shown to be merely a color phase of the Snow Goose with free interbreeding between color types, much as occurs with the red and gray phases of the Screech Owl (Cooke and Gooch, *Evolution* 22: 289, 1968). The Thayer's Gull breeds in colonies with Herring Gulls, where they are distinct in morphology and discriminate between one another without interbreeding; thus, they constitute separate and distinct species (Smith, *Orn. Monogr.* 4: 10-33, 1969). And although we have a hard time telling it, the Alder and Willow Flycatchers likewise are quite distinct, with different habitats

and calls, the latter serving to permit the species to recognize each other; despite the fact that we cannot distinguish them by morphology, usually not even in the hand, they are distinct species biologically (Stein, *Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.* 107: 21-50, 1963). It is interesting to note that in Kentucky the Willow Flycatcher is our breeding bird (with its characteristic "fitz-bew" call), while the Alder Flycatcher is but a migrant and known for certain only from a singing individual recorded in May near Louisville (giving its "wee-bee-o" call).

On the matter of common names, there have been a few additional changes. Some were changed to provide a modifier name for species sharing a group name with others (Shoveler to Northern Shoveler, Knot to Red Knot, Catbird to Gray Catbird, Robin to American Robin, and Yellowthroat to Common Yellowthroat), two to reflect formerly incorrect taxonomic implications (Wood Ibis to Wood Stork, Upland Plover to Upland Sandpiper), and the remainder to conform to more modern or widespread international usage (Common Egret to Great Egret, Common Scoter to Black Scoter, Pigeon Hawk to Merlin, and Sparrow Hawk to American Kestrel).

One further point should be mentioned here. It is not the intention of the Check-list Committee to do away with well established and long standing vernacular names. The term "Blue Goose" will continue in usage for the blue morph of the Snow Goose. Distinctive subspecies (or subspecies groups) formerly recognized as species will retain their old names for the respective groups within the species. Thus for Kentucky species, the following lineup will prevail:

- Colaptes auratus* (Linnaeus). Common Flicker.
- Colaptes auratus auratus* subspecies group. Yellow-shafted Flicker.
- Colaptes auratus auratus* (Linnaeus)
- Colaptes auratus cafer* subspecies group. Red-shafted Flicker.
- Colaptes auratus chrysoides* subspecies group. Gilded Flicker.
- Dendroica coronata* (Linnaeus). Yellow-rumped Warbler.
- Dendroica coronata coronata* subspecies group. Myrtle Warbler.
- Dendroica coronata coronata* (Linnaeus).
- Dendroica coronata auduboni* subspecies group. Audubon's Warbler.
- Icterus galbula* (Linnaeus). Northern Oriole.
- Icterus galbula galbula* (Linnaeus). Baltimore Oriole.
- Icterus galbula bullockii* subspecies group. Bullock's Oriole.
- Junco hyemalis* (Linnaeus). Dark-eyed Junco.
- Junco hyemalis hyemalis* subspecies group. Slate-colored Junco.
- Junco hyemalis hyemalis* (Linnaeus).
- Junco hyemalis carolinensis* Brewster.
- Junco hyemalis cismontanus* Dwight.
- Junco hyemalis aikenii* Ridgway. White-winged Junco.
- Junco hyemalis oregonus* subspecies group. Oregon Junco.
- Junco hyemalis montanus* Ridgway.
- Junco hyemalis insularis* Ridgway. Guadalupe Junco.

In addition to the above, where circumstances will not permit a definite identification (which is most of the time), the term "Traill's Flycatcher" will be retained to designate an individual in the Willow-Alder Flycatcher complex.

In Kentucky, then, it is not necessary to learn a new array of common names. We should continue to use Yellow-shafted Flicker, Myrtle Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Slate-colored or Oregon Junco, as the case may be, as recommended by the A. O. U. Check-list Committee.

There will undoubtedly be numerous other changes adopted in the 6th edition of the *Check-list*, since the foregoing are merely the noncontroversial ones, but in the meantime we in Kentucky (and in the writings in the *Kentucky Warbler*) should conform to these changes, which will be adopted as standard for the immediate future.

— Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville 40208

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1973-1974

Our Mid-winter Bird Count showed a slight decline in number of species, perhaps due to inclement weather and the fact that there were two fewer counts reported from the state this year. As usual some unexpected species (Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, and Sandhill Crane) were reported, and some expected species (Turkey Vulture) were not seen on the day of the count. The editor wishes to thank those who participated for their support and the prompt reporting of their observations.

* * *

MARION (all points within a 5-mile diameter circle, center Marion). — Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; temp. 25° to 32°; wind NE, 0-5 m.p.h. One observer. Total party hours, 9 (7 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles, 15. Total, 41 species, 2802 individuals. — C. L. Frazer (compiler).

* * *

MADISONVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Madisonville, to include J. W. Hancock farm, Brown Road, Elk Creek, KY 892, 2 lakes near Madisonville; deciduous forests and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, open fields 20%). — Dec. 23; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Heavy overcast; temp. 38° to 48°; wind SW, 1-5 m.p.h. Seven observers in one party. Total party hours, 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles, 45 (7 on foot, 38 by car). Total, 51 species, 10,011 individuals. Lakes partly frozen. — Carolyn Coffman, Chip Coffman, James W. Hancock (compiler), Edwin Trathen, Naomi Trathen, Mrs. Mary Travis, Nathanael Travis.

* * *

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center park lodge, to include the park's deciduous and pine woods, fields, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands). — Dec. 28; 6:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Mostly cloudy; temp. 22° to 48°; wind SW, 12-15 m.p.h. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 17 (15 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles, 20 (11 on foot, 9 by car). Total, 49 species, 1,182 individuals. — Don Andrews, Rusty Colvard, Willard Gray, Gregory Hancock, James W. Hancock (compiler).

* * *

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sorgho; open fields, woodlots, creek bottoms, and streams). — Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; temp. 46° to 30°; wind N, 8-10 m.p.h. Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 16 (15 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles, 57.

RUFUS-S. TOWHEE	14	13	8	64	38	14	27	18	47	86	8	16	1	6	5
GRASSHOPPER SPAR.										1					
SAVANNAH SPARROW	500	62	52	47	82	16	160	106	299	416	166	352	22	175	145
SLATE-COL. JUNCO	30	32	1	6						1				2	1
OREGON JUNCO	40	4	3	54	6	4		70	32	55	20	*	*	17	1
TREE SPARROW															
FIELD SPARROW															
HARRIS' SPARROW	200	4		104	70	158		5	115	128	10	60		25	6
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	200	17	8	21	42	12	28	110	178	411	17	75	8	10	27
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	5				1	4	3		3	6				3	
FOX SPARROW		5	2	1	1			3	40	40		5			
SWAMP SPARROW															
SONG SPARROW		28	4	96	17	55	51	23	85	356	70	51	8	46	66
LAPLAND LONGSPUR	14									65					
SNOW BUNTING										9					

DATE OF COUNT	D.30	D.23	D.28	D.28	J.1	D.22	D.16	J.1	D.26	D.23	D.22	D.29	D.27	D.15	D.23
SPECIES	41	51	49	49	36	53	43	49	68	80	44	63	21	56	37
INDIVIDUALS	2302	10011	1182	4143	842	3059	2164	10278	4858	49959	7280	6488	143	2340	1576
OBSERVERS	1	7	5	4	2	7	7	6	6	21	19	26	1	11	2

An asterisk (*) indicates that the species was recorded during the count period, but not on the count day.

(10 on foot, 47 by car). Total, 49 species, 4,143 individuals. — Joe Ford (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

* * *

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center US 60, approximately 2 miles east of Maceo; must of the territory covered in past years was not covered on this count). — Jan. 1; 9:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Snow during morning, cloudy and windy; temp. 10° to 12°; wind 3-5 m.p.h. Two observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 5 (3 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles, 16 (3 on foot, 13 by car). Total, 36 species, 842 individuals.

Due to lack of observers, much of the territory covered on former counts had to be eliminated. Observations made at the feeders of Mrs. Marvin Ray and Mrs. Bea Whalen added greatly to the number of birds seen. Of interest was seven Bluebirds and two Brown Thrashers at Mr. Powell's feeder. — A. L. Powell (compiler), Mildred Powell.

* * *

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green). — Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 12° to 34°; wind SW, 0-10 m.p.h. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 14 (11 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles, 87 (8 on foot, 79 by car). Total, 53 species, 3,059 individuals.

The large roost of previous years was not located within the count area this year. — Blaine Ferrell, Scott Ford, L. Y. Lancaster, Jeb Pickard, Sim Pickard, Marvin Russell, H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

* * *

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Turnhole Bend Drive-Out). — Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Overcast with snow flurries; temp. 28° to 33°; wind 0-10 m.p.h. Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party hours, 29½. Total party miles, 90 (18 on foot, 72 by car). Total, 43 species, 2,164 individuals.

The 1973 count was low on species, about average on individuals. A Christmas count record was the sighting by Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell of two Sandhill Cranes flying overhead. There is a December record of Sandhill Cranes over the park area (Dilley, December 4, 1960), but none before on a Christmas count. — Mrs. George J. Ellis, Jr., Blaine Ferrell, Mrs. James Gillenwater (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell, George Ray, H. E. Shadowen.

* * *

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Hayward store; Beaver Creek environs northwest and west of Glasgow, Ish

Wininger farm, Barren River reservoir ramps, Gillenwater farm and South Fork area, Brigadoon farms on Skagg's Creek). — Jan. 1, 1974; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast; low ceiling; snow flurries; ground and ponds frozen; temp. 18° to 31°; wind N-NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 36½, (18 on foot, 23½ by car). Total party miles, 61 (18 on foot, 48 by car). Total, 49 species, 10,278 individuals.

The weather was bitter and the visibility poor. Many smaller birds usually seen were not recorded due to their inactivity because of the weather conditions. — Mike and Nancy Barr, Frances Ellis, Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne Mason, Russell Starr (compiler).

* * *

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles southwest of park entrance, area as described 1972). — Dec. 26; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast, intermittent heavy rain; temp. 43° to 51°; wind N-SE, 5-54 m.p.h. Ground bare, water open. Six observers in three parties. Total party hours, 26 (12 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles, 111 (17 on foot, 94 by car). Total, 68 species, 4,858 individuals.

Winter bird counts have been taken at Otter Creek Park since the early forties, and this year the number of species exceeded all other winter counts here with a total of 68. The duck population was much higher than usual and of particular interest was the large number of Pintails. Birds of prey were well represented. The Peregrine Falcon was seen by Doris Coffey and Albert Westerman. The black "cap" or crown and facial markings were clearly observed. Woodpeckers were down in numbers with the exception of the Hairy Woodpecker. The heavy rains and strong winds in the afternoon may have been responsible for the low count on some species. Also, one section of shrubby growth within the area was not covered due to inclement weather. — Doris Coffey, Joseph Croft, Wilbur Jackson, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm, Albert Westerman.

* * *

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Highways 42 and 22, area as described in 1972). — Dec. 23; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Overcast; temp. 32° to 46°; wind SW, 0-5 m.p.h. Water partly open, less than one inch of snow on ground. Twenty-one observers in 8 parties. Total party hours, 60 (38 on foot, 22 by car). Total party miles, 296 (22 on foot, 274 by car). Total, 80 species, 49,919 individuals.

The greatest surprise of the count was the number of open field birds, with all-time highs for Louisville set on Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting; latter was second count record, reported by Quiafe and Monroe at two different localities (4 birds and 5 birds) with longspurs and larks. The Grasshopper Sparrow is a first count record and was found by Quiafe and Monroe with a group of 5 Savannah Sparrows. One of the Red-tailed Hawks recorded was an adult in melanistic phase, representing the western race *Buteo jamaicensis calurus*; this particular

phase is very striking, with the entirely black body contrasting sharply with the black-barred, white flight feathers and rufous tail. Other highs for Louisville included the Mourning Dove and the Savannah Sparrow. — Leonard Brecher, Mrs. Herbert Clay, Joseph Croft, Dennis Holding, Violet Jackson, Wilbur Jackson, Burt Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Robert Quaife, Jon Rickert, Mrs. Charles Robertson, William Ruhe, Helga Schulte, Carl Schultz, Mabel Slack, Lawrence Smith, Anne Stamm, Frederick Stamm, Chester Sundquist, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Susie (Beckham Bird Club).

* * *

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County courthouse). — Dec. 22; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 6° to 30°; wind E-SE, 3 m.p.h. Snow cover 2 inches; water partly open; clear. Nineteen observers in 7 parties. Total party hours, 46. Total party miles, 93 (3 on foot, 88 by car). Total, 44 species, 7,280 individuals. — Jackson Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Glore, Virginia Gudgel, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heck, Mr. and Mrs. West Hill, Moseill Jester, J. W. Kemper, Ross Kreamer, Jane Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Loetscher, James and Michael Marsh, Margaret Myers (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Wiley.

* * *

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center (East Hickman on Tates Creek Pike, as described in 1971 count). — Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Overcast, intermittent moderate rain all day; temp. 33° to 48°; wind NW, 7-30 m.p.h. Water open. Twenty-three observers in 11 parties. Total party hours, 54 (22 on foot, 32 by car). Total party miles, 361 (18 on foot, 343 by car). Total, 63 species, 6,488 individuals. — Ellen Allen, Janet Barkley, Mary Burns, Lillian Baxter, Lowell Bush, Dean Davis, Ruth Davis, Lyda Feck, Michael Flynn, Lewis Francis, O. K. Green, Joe Grimsley, G. Colin Hyde, Maude Hurt, Betty Marson, Alfred M. Reece (compiler), Virginia Reece, Joyce Robbins, Barbara Ruff, Constance Schwein, Ricky Schwein, Andrew Herbert, Marion Uterhart, Conley Webster, Robert Welch, Hilda Woods.

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FRANKFORT (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of U.S. 127 and KY. 1900; area as described in 1972). — Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast, snowing in early morning; temp. 30° to 34°; wind N-NE, 0-10 m.p.h. Snow cover 1 to 2 inches; water open. Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (18 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles, 121 (15 on foot, 106 by car). Total, 56 species, 2,340 individuals.

The Long-eared Owl was found in a dense red cedar thicket. The Pileated Woodpecker continues to be more numerous each year. Species scarce or absent include Cedar Waxwing, Myrtle Warbler, and Swamp

Sparrow. — Marvin Bing, William Caine, E. J. Carr, Peggy Derryberry, Mary Grayson, Paul Hulker, Howard Jones (compiler), Mary Rose Kautzman, Lewis and Mary Pfouts, Ferol Wilkerson.

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KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 227 and KY 845 in Owen County; area as described 1972). — Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Partly cloudy becoming overcast; temp. 27° to 48°; wind S, 5-15 m.p.h. Ground bare and frozen, water open. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours, 9½ (6 on foot, 3½ by car). Total party miles, 70 (4 on foot, 66 by car). Total 37 species, 1,576 individuals. — Marvin Bing, Howard P. Jones (compiler).

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WILLARD (same territory, with little change, since first census made in 1937; area is through creek bottoms, old fields, and woodland area). — Dec. 27; 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Windy; temp. 76° to 82°; wind, 18 m.p.h. One observer. Total party-hours, 6 (6 on foot, 0 by car); Total party miles, 6 (6 on foot, 0 by car. Total 21 species, 143 individuals. — Ercel Kozee (compiler).

FIELD NOTES

PINTAIL DUCK NESTING IN KENTUCKY

Although a fairly common transient and winter resident in Kentucky (Mengel, *THE BIRDS OF KENTUCKY*, A.O.U. Ornithol. Mono. No. 3, p. 181, 1965), The Pintail Duck (*Anas acuta*) has heretofore not been known to nest in that state. In the summer of 1973 the successful nesting and rearing of young by this species did occur, thus constituting the first such event to be recorded in Kentucky.

A pair of adult Pintails was seen on a large farm pond one mile south of Eminence, Shelby County, Kentucky in late April 1973 by Mr. David Wilson, the owner of the property. After six weeks the male Pintail was no longer present; in early June the female was seen with eleven downcovered young. On July 22, when I first saw the birds, there were but five young remaining; each was approximately one-third the size of the mother. The last sighting of the ducks by Mr. Wilson was on August 8, at which time the five young were almost as large as their mother.

I am indebted to David Wilson for sharing with me his observations, and to Mr. David Orr of Louisville for bringing the events to my attention. — **THANE S. ROBINSON**, Department of Biology (Contribution No. 163), University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky. 40208.

LATE NESTING OF EASTERN BLUEBIRD

During the course of my duties as Seasonal Naturalist at Mammoth Cave National Park during the summer of 1973 Park Superintendent Joe Kulezia, Seasonal Naturalist Elmer Cooke, and I had the opportunity to observe the late nesting of a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) just outside the office of the superintendent. The nest was located approximately seven feet off the ground in a natural hole in a tree. The three fledglings were first noticed on a branch near the nest. Down was plainly evident. I last observed the fledglings with the male parent in the trees beside the office on November 4. — **PEGGY T. RIPPY**, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101.

LATE SIGHTING OF DICKCISSEL

On the morning of November 9, 1973 I saw a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) when it came to my patio to feed with the House Sparrows which consume the scratch feed I put out. It also went to the bird bath and drank. It did not have a black bib, but it had a yellow breast with black streaking, yellow above and below the eyes, and brilliant chestnut patch on the wing. It was still with the sparrows on November 13. — **MRS. EDWARD BOWNE**, 1321 Woodmere Lane, Owensboro 42301.

SIGHTING OF BAND-TAILED PIGEON

On Friday, November 30, 1973 Mrs. Malcolm (Winifred) Tanner of Eddyville called to report a strange bird that had been coming to the

feeders in her yard for about ten days. After consulting a variety of books she found it in Peterson's *Guide to Western Birds* and identified it as a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). Mrs. Tanner has studied birds for many years and is an informed and careful observer so that I was confident that she was right.

On Saturday, December 1, I drove to the Tanner's home. Their backyard slopes steeply down and then up again to U.S. 62 on the east edge of Eddyville, forming a wooded (oak) valley in some respects similar to the usual habitat of the Band-tailed Pigeon. I arrived about 2:30 p.m. The bird had already been in the yard but had left shortly before my arrival. It returned about 3:30, but instead of coming to the feeders — which the Tanners assured me it normally did at this hour — it took up what appeared to be a roosting position about 35 feet up in an oak (sp?) and gave every indication of staying there.

Although the light was fading, it was possible to make out all field marks with great ease. Considering the large size, the conspicuously light-banded tail, yellow feet, yellow bill with black mark, and the white mark on the neck, misidentification would have been impossible. I took several pictures (color transparencies) that are fairly clear and show all marks plainly.

Where did the bird come from? The reasonable but not inevitable answer is that it escaped from a pigeon fancier somewhere. Perhaps publicity will produce a clue to the bird's origin. — CLELL T. PETERSON, 901 S. 18th St., Murray 42071.

NEWS AND VIEWS

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. H. V. (Catharine) Noland became a member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society in 1952 and has been a Life Member for several months. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and has long been interested in wildlife conservation. She has served as a treasurer of the Louisville Chapter, has led numerous field trips, and has served on various committees. Because of her enthusiasm for bird study she has led others to join our organization. We are happy to extend to Mrs. Noland this belated welcome as a Life Member.

A SPECULATIVE OBSERVATION ON LAND CHANGE

It is well documented that changes in habitat also change the animal life. This is especially true concerning birds since many have specific ecological requirements.

I recently participated in a symposium on surface mine reclamation sponsored by Scientists and Engineers in Appalachia at Lees Junior College in Jackson. During this time I was taken on a tour of a surface mine operation in Breathitt County by one of the largest coal companies in eastern Kentucky. Here I observed a massive demonstration of coal removal from a mountain top, accomplished by taking off the top of the mountain and filling the nearest hollows, appropriately termed "hollow fills." This particular tract of land is over 100 hectares (247 acres).

One does not find large tracts of flat land in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, particularly in Breathitt County or points south and west. I feel that if mining techniques such as this continue to produce large acreages of flat land, the possibility exists that the avifauna could become increasingly diverse compared to what is presently here. Grassland species may expand their ranges easterly from the bluegrass region to these flat areas, and migrants may stop more often and in greater numbers. — PIERRE N. ALLAIRE, Department of Biology, Lees Junior College, Jackson, Ky. 41339.

(Editor's note: For a different viewpoint see NOTES FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN MOUNTAINS by Joseph Croft, The Kentucky Warbler, Vol. 45, No. 4, Nov., 1969.)

*** SPRING MEETING DATE CHANGED ***

Please note that the date of the Spring Meeting to be held at Bowling Green has been changed to April 19-21. Additional information will be provided at a later date.